THE SPIDER'S WEB

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO:
THE MARVEL COMICS GROUP, SECOND FLOOR 625 MADISON AV., NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

Dear Stan and John,

Thank you. I appreciated issue #63 of SPIDER-MAN as I have appreciated no issue of SPIDER-MAN in a long time. My happiness in seeing the old Vulture brought back to his rightful place as THE flying man excelled even my happiness at the new problems you have given Peter Parker. The idea of ever doing away with such a character was foolish in the first place. My heart thrilled to see him flying around as in the old days, cunning, crafty, but now seeming even stronger than he used to be. I simply had to exclaim with joy when I saw him bouncing those guards around with such skill and strength that I wondered how Spidey could ever hope to beat him. Now, don't get me wrong, though. I'm not the kind of guy who likes to see villains win. It's just that I like to see the villain's prowess shown so that it heightens the enjoyment of the battle with the hero. And even though Spidey did almost nothing in this ish, I enjoyed it so much that I just had to write to commend you on a job well done. I'm not the type of guy who writes rave letters, but when I like something, I want you to know about it (and vice-versa). The whole issue brought back memories of the Spidey of old, and I enjoyed it more than I've enjoyed a Spidey story in many a month. Let's have more stories like this. Spidey made very few (if any) wisecracks this whole issue, and though I enjoy good wisecracks at the proper times, I was pleased with this. Lately, every time Spidey opens his mouth, a wisecrack pops out, and the series is turning into one big joke. There seemed to be none of the drama, excitement, and even the empathy which a reader likes to feel when reading a story. There are those, I know, who will gripe at you for giving Spidey these new problems, but it makes it easier for a guy to identify with Peter when he does have these problems and makes the reader more drawn into the story. I thank you.

Cary Burkett, 1120 E. Pecan
Angleton, Texas

Dear Stan,

I got started reading your mags about four years ago. During these past years as I've had the time I've read the mags of just about all the gang from Marvel. The one personality that I've always found time for though was Spidey. Not that I don't enjoy the rest of the crew, but Peter Parker is the type of guy that won't let me relax unless I know what he's got going at every minute. My only comment on the way you have his life all tangled in the problems of today is, that it seems the poor kid's mind is going to snap one of these days. Being realistic as you usually are, Pete needs someone that he can share some of his problems with. Captain Stacey has my vote. He is the type of man that can understand Spidey's problems and give the kind of advice that would ease Pete's mind without making any decisions for him. Besides being a romanticist, it would give Pete an inside lane for Gwen. I think she's just the girl for Pete. She always had had something more than an outer beauty and her philosophy has always seemed a little deeper than she's let show on the surface. Well, keep up the good work and I'm sure that somehow, regardless of what happens, Pete will manage to survive and Spidey will continue to swing from one issue to the next. By the way, what does one have to do to get a subscription to Spider-Man comics? I'll be going overseas to pick up where Nick and the gang left off in about a month and a half. I seriously enjoy these magazines and would appreciate hearing from you on what I have to do and how much it will cost. By the way, if Nick Fury gets the chance, why not let him visit with the First Air Commando Wing here on England AFB. We work a little differently than he did, but we share his goals. Thanks a million for any help you can give me with this request.

John Johnson, Sgt. ASAF, Box 139
England AFB La. 71301

Dear Stan and John,

Since last year when I first really discovered the name Marvel, I have found many different aspects of your magazines. Probably the most astonishing fact is that 66% of the National Merit Scholarship finalists in my school read Marvel comics. In addition to this, I discovered that the people who score high marks on their College Board exams usually are avid fans of the FF, Spidey, Daredevil, and Doctor Strange. The third verity which has come to the surface is that your magazines help to increase the rate with which you read. Because of the grouping of the words, one tends to read blocks of sentences instead of slowly reading one word at a time. Everyone here at Webb agrees that Spidey is the coolest hero you have. The SPIDER-MAN SPECTACULAR knocked this school out of gear for about a week. I loaned out mine and did not get it back until five days later. The only thing that everyone did not like about it was the lack of color. From talking to the other Marvelites in my school, I can say that all of them would gladly pay more than 35¢ for color. Spider-Man is always improving and so are all the rest of your comics. That is why Marvel has the best comics in the United States.

Jeff Jordan, Webb School
Claremont, California

Dear Sirs,

I read every Spider-Man comic you put out, and so far I can find only one fault — I never see any letters from the "First State", Delaware. Out of over a half million people I can't be the only Delawaren reading your comics. So Delawarens, let's hear from you. I work at the State Hospital in New Castle and I always take a Marvel comic to work with me. I let my patients read them when I am through with them. My patients are nuts about them.

Bill Anderson, 308 North Connell Street
Wilmington, Del.

KNOW YE THESE, THE HALLOWED RANKS OF MARVELDOM:

R.F.O. (REAL FRANTIC ONE)—A BUYER OF AT LEAST 3 MARVEL MAGS A MONTH.

T.T.B. (TITANIC TRUE BELIEVER)—A DIVINELY-INSPIRED 'NO-PRIZE' WINNER.

Q.N.S. (QUITE 'NUFF SAYER)—A FORTUNATE FRANTIC ONE WHO'S HAD A LETTER PRINTED.

K.O.F. (KEEPER OF THE FLAME)—ONE WHO RECRUITS A NEWCOMER TO MARVEL'S ROLLICKIN' RANKS.

P.M.M. (PERMANENT MARVELITE MAXIMUS)—ANYONE POSSESSING ALL FOUR OF THE OTHER TITLES.

F.F.F. (FEARLESS FRONT FACER)—AN HONORARY TITLE BESTOWED FOR DEVOTION TO MARVEL ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY.

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Dear Stan and John:

SPIDER-MAN #63 was excellent, as usual. One of the high points of the adventure was John Romita's aerial battle scenes. They reminded me somewhat of Romita's cover illustration for DAREDEVIL#16, the way you could look past the combatants and see the buildings rising up toward you. Your use of the Vulture as the main character gave you plenty of opportunity for these aerial views. And speaking of the Vulture, I've never seen any of Spidey's many foes steal the show the way the Vulture did in issue #63. He really came on strong! At last Stan has created a villain with a believable motive. The characterization was *superb!* I think it was most fitting that it was the Vulture, not Spidey, whose picture dominated the cover. The title — "Wings in the Night" — also foreshadowed this amazing tale in which everything revolved around the Vulture, with Spider-Man relegated to a secondary role. I'm really looking forward to the next ish, in which Spider-Man and the Bird of Prey have it out! Another villain that could be developed into as strong a character as Vulchy is the Green Goblin. By now it should be obvious to all readers that the frequent memory flashes suffered by old man Osborn are going to lead up to the Goblin's revival in the near future. Well, I'm all for it. I'd like to see Spidey battle more such villains as the Vulture and the Green Goblin.

Rick Howe, 217 Burroughs Ave.
Beaufort, S. C. 29902

Dear Stan,

SPIDEY #63 was a great story, and was made great by the fact that, for one of the few times in Marvel history, one bad guy whipped the tar out of his opponent. I am, of course, referring to the long awaited (and expected) meeting of the two Vultures. But, alas, this marvelously executed main plot was sorely in need of a good sub-plot. The sub-plot of "Spidey-fall-down-and-hurt-his-arm-so-he-can't-fight" is a little over-used. If he doesn't hurt his arm, then he catches a cold and stays in bed until the end of the mag, where he makes a miraculous recovery and beats up the bad guy. But the point is, why did he fall down? "Ha!" you may say, "The webbing is not water-proof! So it didn't stick to the wall he sought to stick it to!!!" They why, oh faithful leader, did said super-hero say, in SPIDEY #29, that he made it water-proof originally? So! Our witty Spider-Man can shoot webbing underwater (#29) but not in the rain! Stan old boy, only Marvel could make webbing like that. Now would you just explain why it shoots underwater, but not in the rain!?! Huh? Would you? It would greatly relieve me to know why wonderful Mr. Spider-Man must fight with a busted wing. Why don't you give the Vulture a broken wing! I can just see ish #64, when Spidey bumps his arm and thinks "The pain, it is almost unbearable! But I can't fail now, I just can't" 'Nuff said!

Melvin Payton, 1388 Poquoson Ave
Poquoson, Virginia 23362

Dear Stan and John,

I just have to give you guys a pat on the back for SPIDEY #63. It was superb in every way. John's art and Stan's scripting seem to get better every ish. Unfortunately, the original Vulture being alive was no surprise to me. Why should it be? After all, you've brought all the dead baddies back to life! And, oh yes, one more thing before I go. In your continued stories (which is most of 'em), at the end of the story, in the preview box, you always have: "Next . . . whatever the title is." This gives the appearance that the story has ended, when it's really just beginning. You should have "continued next ish" at the end of all continued stories and have the "Next . . ."bit at the end of all the series of continued stories. I hope I have succeeded in running you guys batty. 'Nuff said?

Michael Church, Route #2, Box 28-A
Butler, Tennessee 37640

Dear Stan and John,

Why, o, why must Spider-Man constantly face his foes with a broken arm or a cold or some ailment? I mean, hasn't the guy got enough problems? He's tackled the Vulture, the Lizard, and the Shocker with broken or sprained arms. He's fought Doc Ock and Kraven and the Vulture with illness. And these are only samples of what you've done to the poor guy. Give him a break (and I don't mean in the arm or leg or rib cage or anything like that). "Wings in the Night" was still a good story, though. The original Vulture is much better than the newer one for the main reason that he looks like a vulture. Can't wait 'til next issue as those air-borne battles between Spidey and the Vulture are always a special treat. The art was good. Still wish Romita could draw the entire mag and not just do layouts. At least have him pencil and ink the covers. Okay? By the way, not that I'm a trouble maker, but how come Gwen and Pete are buddy-buddy in the SPIDER-MAN SPECTACULAR? Now, you could say that that takes place before this yarn, but how come DD gets involved with the crooked Raleigh in his latest adventure? Or should I mind my own business?

Tony Isabella, 11203 Peony Avenue
Cleveland, Ohio 44111

Dear Stan and John:

Spider-Man is a poor slob under abnormal stresses. He is constantly frustrated in his love life (he hasn't made a pass at Gwen in 62 issues that had a ghost of a chance of success). He represses desire for Mary Jane (inhumanly) and manages to do exactly the things that alienate friends and lose chicks. Every time. And he can talk about his hang-ups casually. It seems to me that he would be more prone to violence than he is, so as to reduce hostility and anxiety. Also, if Peter Parker is as brilliant as he seems, why doesn't he think of a way to make some money honestly which wouldn't take much time? With his special resources of mind and body, he should be able to supply his own needs and those of his schizophenogenic Aunt May with less frantic insecurity.

The Flowerpower League, 955-A Palm St.
Yuma, Arizona

Dear Stan and John,

I was trying to figure out why you let Pete have such an easy time of it this month (just a sprained shoulder, more silent treatment from Gwen, and the return of the original Vulture, who has died at least three times — Spidey usually suffers more than this just getting through the introduction), when suddenly, like a vulture out of the blue, it dawned on me — Spider-Man's birthday is this month! (May) Yes, it was exactly six years ago this month that the first SPIDER-MAN story was unleashed on the world. The magazine was AMAZING FANTASY #15, and I was on hand to buy it, which shows you that I'm no newcomer to the ranks of Marvel. Through high school and college I followed the adventures of our swinging web-slinger (and slinging web-swinger), and now that I am nearing retirement age (21) it's comforting to know that not only is Spidey still around, but he still has more problems than I do, which I think should earn HIM a no-prize.

Michael Malson, 51 Elizabeth St. S.
Brampton, Ont., Canada

NEXT THE WEB AND THE WONDER!

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